TL6551 CDPM DOCUMENTAÇÃO

National Council of Maubere Resistance

Armed Forces of the National Liberation of East Timor/Falintil

Your Holiness, Pope John Paul II

As faithful members of the flock of Christ, we kneel at your feet unhappy that we are unable to be present with our people to greet the Pilgrim Pope of faith and messenger of love, justice and peace.

As Your Holiness steps on to the dearly beloved soil of East Timor we, the guerilla fighters of the Armed Forces of the National Liberation of East Timor/Falintil weep with emotion and sadness. Emotion, because the gesture of your visit indicates your wish to bless East Timor and its people. Sadness, because this land, this nation and this soil which we are defending with our lives would rather welcome your Holiness with real joy and Christian spontaneity which are absent today.

Thousands of our people will go to Dili to welcome the Father of Faith carrying with them the hopes of hundreds of thousands who at this moment are locked up in concentration camps under rigorous control.

We are sad and sorrowful because East Timor and its people, in their Christian simplicity and poverty, could celebrate the visit of Your Holiness better than the occupying forces who will only disguise our sorrow and mourning with garlands and festive streamers that are covered with the blood of our people.

The Maubere people have always trusted the unselfish clergy of East Timor who have never on any occasion deserted their people. On the contrary they have always encouraged deep respect for the Holy See.

The Maubere people, if they had the freedom to do so, would like to express their confidence in your Holiness that they will not be abandoned and that they are looking forward to hearing a message of Peace for East Timor.

The Maubere people greet your Holiness with jubilation but at the same time they cannot fail to show their anguish! In a normal situation of peace in East Timor, we are totally certain that the Maubere people would come in haste in greater numbers and in great strength, and would come in haste in a genuine explosion of joy.... the Timorese way, in accordance with our traditional hospitality.

The Maubere people are so hospitable that centuries ago they welcomed with wide open arms the first missionary to open up East Timor to the Christian faith, the Portuguese priest Antonio Taveira.

For fourteen years the people of East Timor have been dispossessed of real joy. Spontaneity has been replaced by calculated and cautious attitudes - for fear of brutal reprisals by the occupying military.

Your Holiness, Pope John Paul II

We the guerilla fighters of Falintil kneel before you to beg the protection of your blessing and the help of your prayers to enable us

to continue to fulfil our duties to liberate this country by giving the people of East Timor the complete freedom they aspire to and the full exercise of the rights they long for.

With all humility we ask your Holiness to grant us the favour of receiving this document in which we expose our feelings, pain, apprehension and hope. Our feelings are poorly expressed and our sorrow and anguish barely contained and our apprehension (perhaps) unjustified.

But we have great hope that we will die fighting for the Maubere people of East Timor that one day by finding peace they may live freely and happily.

Your Holiness: bless us and our struggle.

The Leadership of the Resistance.

Sgned: Kay Rala Xanana Gusmao, Commander of Falintil.

General Headquarters of CNRM, in the interior of East Timor, 5 October 1989